

Provo River Restoration

12-27-00

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gation companies to add diversity to wetlands such as a boardwalk off Old Highway 40.

The project area is located between Jordanelle Reservoir and Deer Creek Reservoir. On this ten mile stretch of the middle Provo River, there will be seven public access areas by the time the project is completed in 2004.

The access areas will be located at the base of Jordanelle Dam, along a one mile stretch of river along Old Highway 40 in the old white bridge area, one on the east and one west side of River Road, one on the east and one west side of Midway Bridge, and one more in Charleston.

The "old white bridge" access area is now open. The portion of the river off Old Highway 40 has full river access for anglers, bird and wildlife watchers. The base of Jordanelle Dam and east and west side of River Road will be open by Memorial Day.

The project cost an estimated \$30 million. Of that, \$20 million went for land acquisition, \$10 million went for construction.

The Central Utah Completion Act provided full authority for the project. Congress authorized the total cost, but actual funds are provided through annual appropriations.

Since 1994, Congress has appropriated about \$10.2 million for the project, of which \$5.3 million has been spent for planning and land acquisition. Compared to the more than \$2 billion spent on the whole Central Utah Project, put some perspective on dollars spent.

PRRP requires the acquisition of some private property. The federal government needs 135 acres of private property to establish the public corridor along the river.

Miles is working with private landowners to acquire an additional 491 acres to meet habitat

restoration obligations and achieve PRRP's ecosystem restoration goal. Miles said these properties will be acquired only on a "willing-seller" basis for further restoration.

Government agencies, outdoor groups, biologists, local officials and the general public participated in planning the PRRP over the past ten years.

Although a public hearing was held in Heber over the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement that was pub-

"It seems like it is only designed for fishermen."

Don Ritchie

lished in 1996, local residents still have some confusion about what the end result of the project will be.

The final draft, complete with public comments, was released for public review in February of 1998.

According to Miles local residents envision more trails and greater access to the river. Some residents were disappointed to learn PRRP will only provide limited and controlled public access. Miles said the limited public access is essential to ensure that public use will be compatible with the project's ecosystem restoration goals.

Miles said there has been extensive re-planting of grass and native trees and willows along the river. The reconstruction has harvested rocks from the old channel into the new channel to ensure better habitat for fish. The actual fish from the old channel are placed into the new channel.

Public concern has been raised about elimination of some bridges. The Mitigation Committee says the bridges have to go in order to allow river water to flow naturally.

The Mitigation Committee stressed that the project will not increase the likelihood of flooding on adjacent private property. Property owners will receive the same amount of flood protection under the PRRP by the Jordanelle Dam upstream.

Heber resident Don Ritchie, a member of a group of 100 people reviewing the Wasatch County Master Plan, said that he and others were shocked at the huge amount of land needed for the project. Moreover, the plan included only limited access to the river by way of a few parking areas. He also said people working on the master plan had concerns about who will be responsible for maintenance.

Members feel that if Wasatch County is to be responsible, local residents should have more say about accessibility and decisions, such as which and how many bridges should be eliminated.

There are also concerns about the lack of hiking and biking trails as well as picnic areas and other amenities designed for family oriented activities.

"It seems like it is only designed for fishermen," says Ritchie.

Del Bagley lives off of River road, right next to the river that has been under construction. One of the access areas will be in this area. He said he was sure the project would destroy the value of his property. He put his house up for sale.

After time he began to see results, and found instead he had an aesthetically pleasing view. He now enjoys walks along the new stretch of river channel. His house is off the market and he announced he just might have to buy himself a fishing license.

He enjoys watching an eagles nest and a red tail hawks nest, as well as an elk cow and her youngster, many deer and red fox. He is however willing to part with the raccoon's.

ditional Celebrations

wish that those they touch will blossom like the Sorcova, live and grow old like the trees, and be as strong as stone or iron.

American colonists brought Old World traditions with them, blending them over the years so that today we recognize aspects of many cultures in our own observances.

After an evening of visiting taverns and homes drinking, they welcomed the New Year with gunfire and shouting, and singing "Auld Lang Syne." The next day many attended church

services and held open houses, welcoming and feeding all visitors. Colonists might choose a passage from the Bible at random to use as a guide for the coming year.

The baby with a sash for the New Year began in Germany during the 1400's.

Eating donuts, or anything round originated with the Dutch.

The New Year is still a time of drawing close to friends and family, forgiving old grudges and looking forward to a better future. May health, peace and prosperity grace your new year!

ie Gravy Train

government subsidized net competition.

e. The legislation would governmental trustees to the stock market in hopes would yield enough new ll work. We've heard the in the debate over Social me would-be reformers the income of the Social fund, the government ctive investor in the stock o, say, letting people save oney, which they can't be

ed out that signing up the nt mutual fund manager ra's box: The state would stockholder in the econo- ould have to come to and, begging to be invest- ent's involvement would that should be based on ottom line. Not to men- ureaucrats are such swell 't they working on Wall

s apply to the plan to fat- ion fund. Ironically, simi- alf of Social Security have ongress by some of the acking the railroad bill. e, a billion there, and pret- ing real money. According

to the Congressional Budget Office, the pension bill would sop up \$15 billion of the "surplus" for fiscal year 2001. Pension reserve funds now earmarked for government securities would have to be transferred to the new trust whose board members would be over-seeing the investments.

"It would be impossible to comply with the 90-10 debt plan," said Senator Don Nickles, one of the lonely naysayers.

Nickles is referring to the latest "promise" by Congress to spend your money wisely. According to the 90-10 plan, 90 percent of the "surplus" federal income would go to paying down the debt and the other 10 percent would go to giving taxpayers some of there money back. Or to misbegotten additional spending on railroad pension plans. Whichever comes first.

The railroad retirement bill is just one more example of the hypocritical hubris of career politicians, willing to appease any special interest, to pay any price, to get reelected (as long as you and me are the ones footing the bill).

Their game strategy paid off once again this November. Despite a few squeakers here and there, 98.5 percent of incumbents romped back into office without a hitch.

Next stop: politics as usual. Unless somebody has enough sense to pull the stop cord.

Paul Jacob is the national director of U.S. Term Limits in Washington, D. C and can be reached at jacob@ustermimits.org.

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FEEDING THE HOMELES

Contact Francis & Jane Church kitchen; second V. 1, come at 12:30 p.m.

Help-Make 500 sandwich Kitchen.

Deliveries-Talk with F p.m. Help serve sandwich Community Dining Room.

Donations-Make checks Salvation Army at bottom Store.

HEBER VALLEY MEDICA

Contact Calleen Cox at t

Family or youth visits-F

Regular Volunteers-Mus

ing program required. Volu

Areas of need-Patient vi elderly and children, cleric tions.

FOOD BANK, Senior Citize

Contact Blaine Webster a

Drop off food Monday t p.m.

OLYMPICS 2002

Contact Tom or Linda W

Work at Soldier Hollow

events. Must be 18 by Feb.

Country Skiing, Nordi

Paralympics.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CAR

Contact Ellen Lyons

Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1

All ages, families, and g

activities or programs or co

ST. LAWRENCE THRIFT S

Contact Ellen Diessner d

Activities include sales,

and laundry.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE, 24

Contact: Patricia Musser

Activities can be day long

packet of available projects.

NOTE: If you need volun activity, please call C

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